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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

48500 7590 05/14/2009
SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.
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DENVER, CO 80202

EXAMINER	
WANG, LIANG CHE A	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2453
DATE MAILED: 05/14/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/622,982	07/17/2003	Kevin Chan	4366-124	2989

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RESTRICTION OF MESSAGE DISTRIBUTION FOR SECURITY

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$0	\$0	\$1510	08/14/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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P.O. Box 1450
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

4850 7590 05/14/2009
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Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$0	\$0	\$1510	08/14/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
WANG, LIANG CHE A	2453	709-206000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____
Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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48500	7590	05/14/2009	EXAMINER	
SHERIDAN ROSS P.C. 1560 BROADWAY, SUITE 1200 DENVER, CO 80202			WANG, LIANG CHE A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2453

DATE MAILED: 05/14/2009

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 1417 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 1417 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/622,982

Examiner

Liangche Alex Wang

Applicant(s)

CHAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2453

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to BPAI decision on 2/10/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9, 11-25, 27-31, 36-45, 47-49 (renumbered as 1-42).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Liangche Alex Wang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2453

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. Claims 1-9, 11-25, 27-31, 36-45, 47-49 are allowed.
2. Claims 10, 26, 32-35, 46 are canceled.
3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
4. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mathew R. Ellsworth on 4/29/09.
5. The application has been amended as follow:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing an electronic message, comprising:

receiving a message from a sender, the message comprising at least one recipient to receive the message and including at least one of a restriction identifier, the restriction identifier identifying a subset of recipients from among a set of possible recipients and an access restriction indicating a subset of points of access from among a set of points of access to access the message, wherein the message further comprises an age restriction, the age restriction specifying an age limit of the message;

determining whether each identified at least one recipient is within the subset of recipients corresponding to the restriction identifier; and wherein at least one of the following steps is performed:

(i) when the message comprises the restriction identifier and an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, at least one of not providing access to the message to the identified at least one recipient who is not in the subset of recipients and notifying the sender that an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients; and

(ii) when the message comprises the access restriction and an identified at least one recipient attempts to access the message from a point of access not within the subset of points of access, not providing access to the message to the identified at least one recipient whose point of access is not within the subset of points of access.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises the restriction identifier and the restriction identifier is located in a header of the message.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises the restriction identifier and the restriction identifier is located in a body of the message.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises the restriction identifier and the restriction identifier is located in a trailer of the message.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises the restriction identifier and the restriction identifier is located in an attachment to the message.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message is received by a server associated with at least one recipient from a server associated with the sender.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one of the restriction identifier and an access identifier is configured as a flag.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises the restriction identifier and wherein, when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, the step of not providing access to the message to the identified at least one recipient who is not in the subset of recipients is performed.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises the restriction identifier and wherein, when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, the step of notifying the sender that an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients is performed.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 [[10]], wherein the message comprises a timestamp indicating when a life of a message starts and further comprising:
comparing the expired life of the message with the age restriction to determine whether or not to delete and/or deliver the message to the at least one recipient.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises a forwarding restriction indicating at least one of (a) whether the message may be forwarded and (b) to whom the message may be forwarded.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein the message comprises the access restriction.

14. A computer readable medium operable to perform the steps of Claim 1.

15. A logic circuit operable to perform the steps of Claim 1.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for processing an electronic message, comprising:

receiving at least part of a message inputted by a user, the at least part of a message comprising at least one recipient to receive the message, wherein the message further comprises an age restriction, the age restriction specifying an age limit of the message;

receiving, from the user, a restriction identifier for the at least part of a message, the restriction identifier identifying a subset of recipients from among a set of possible recipients ;
and

when a restriction identifier is received, tagging the message with the restriction identifier.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein, before the message is sent to the at least one recipient, further comprising:

determining whether each identified at least one recipient is within the subset of recipients corresponding to the restriction identifier; and

when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, at least one of not sending the message to the identified at least one recipient who is not in the subset of recipients and notifying the user that an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients.

18. The method of Claim 16, wherein the restriction identifier is located in a header of the message.

19. The method of Claim 16, wherein the restriction identifier is located in a body of the message.

20. The method of Claim 16, wherein the restriction identifier is located in a trailer of the message.

21. The method of Claim 16, wherein the restriction identifier is located in an attachment to the message.

22. The method of Claim 17, wherein the message is received by a server associated with at least one recipient from a server associated with the sender.

23. The method of Claim 17, wherein the restriction identifier is configured as a flag.

24. The method of Claim 17, wherein, when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, the step of not providing access to the message to the identified at least one recipient who is not in the subset of recipients is performed.

25. The method of Claim 17, wherein, when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, the step of notifying the sender that an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients is performed.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 17 ~~[[26]]~~, wherein the message comprises a timestamp indicating when a life of a message starts and further comprising:

comparing the expired life of the message with the age restriction to determine whether or not to delete and/or deliver the message to the at least one recipient.

28. The method of Claim 17, wherein the message comprises a forwarding restriction indicating at least one of (a) whether the message may be forwarded and (b) to whom the message may be forwarded.

29. The method of Claim 17, wherein the message comprises an access restriction indicating a subset of points of access from among a set of points of access to access the message, and further comprising:

when an identified at least one recipient attempts to access the message from a point of access not within the subset of points of access, not providing access to the message to the identified at least one recipient whose point of access is not within the subset of points of access.

30. A computer readable medium operable to perform the steps of Claim 16.

31. A logic circuit operable to perform the steps of Claim 16.

32-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A server for processing an electronic message, comprising:
an input operable to receive at least part of a message inputted by a user, the at least part of a message comprising at least one recipient to receive the message, and a restriction identifier for the at least part of a message, the restriction identifier identifying a subset of recipients from

among a set of possible recipients, wherein the message further comprises an age restriction, the age restriction specifying an age limit of the message; and

when a restriction identifier is received, a processor operable to tag the message with the restriction identifier.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ server of Claim 36, wherein, before the message is sent to the at least one recipient, the processor is further operable to determine whether each identified at least one recipient is within the subset of recipients corresponding to the restriction identifier and, when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, at least one of not send the message to the identified at least one recipient who is not in the subset of recipients and notify the sender that an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ server of Claim 36, wherein the restriction identifier is located a header of the message.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ server of Claim 36, wherein the restriction identifier is located in a body of the message.

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ server of Claim 36, wherein the restriction identifier is located in a trailer of the message.

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ server of Claim 36, wherein the restriction identifier is located in an attachment to the message.

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ server of Claim 36, wherein the message is received by a server associated with at least one recipient from a server associated with the sender.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ server of Claim 36, wherein the restriction identifier is configured as a flag.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ server of Claim 36, wherein, when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, the function of not providing access to the message to the identified at least one recipient who is not in the subset of recipients is performed.

45. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ server of Claim 36, wherein, when an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients, the function of notifying the sender that an identified at least one recipient is not within the subset of recipients is performed.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ server of Claim 36 [[46]], wherein the message comprises a timestamp indicating when a life of a message starts and the processor is further operable to compare the expired life of the message with the age restriction to determine whether or not to delete and/or deliver the message to the at least one recipient.

48. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ server of Claim 36, wherein the message comprises a forwarding restriction indicating at least one of (a) whether the message may be forwarded and (b) to whom the message may be forwarded.

49. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ server of Claim 36, wherein the message comprises an access restriction indicating a subset of points of access from among a set of points of access to access the message, and wherein, before allowing access to the message by the at least one recipient, the processor is operable to determine point of access of the at least one recipient and, when the point of access of the at least one recipient is not within the subset of points of access, not allowing access to the message.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Liangche A. Wang whose telephone number is (571)272-

3992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571)272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Liang-che Alex Wang
May 6, 2009

/Liangche A. Wang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2453

